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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,063	07/17/2003	Stephen Francis Rutkowski	126762	2282
41838	7590	02/10/2006	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (PCPI) C/O FLETCHER YODER P. O. BOX 692289 HOUSTON, TX 77269-2289			KOCH, GEORGE R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-3, 11, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida (US 5,932,012) in view of Barrey (US 6,197,115) and either of the identical Chikahisa (US 6,562,406) or Chikahisa (WO99/49987)

Ishida discloses a robotic pen (see Figure 1) comprising a machine including a stage (items 5, 6 and 8) for mounting a workpiece for rotation and orthogonal translation (described in column 5, lines 3-55), and an elevator (items 4a and 10) for translation from said stage; a pen tip (nozzle 1) mounted to said elevator; a dispenser (syringe 2 and nozzle support 12) joined in flow communication with said pen tip for ejecting a stream of material atop said workpiece; and a digital controller (items 14, 16, 17 and 18, and see column 6, line 61 to column 7, line 61) configured for coordinating relative movement of said pen tip and said stage, and dispensing of said stream from said pen tip.

Ishida does not disclose that the pen is rotatably mounted to the elevator, or that the stage permits translation generally in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to the plane.

Barrey discloses that it is known to use a stage or end effector for permitting translation generally in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to the plane. Barrey discloses that a multi-axis robot structure allows for the application of sealant to a surface that lies in 2 or more dimensional planes with a smooth and consistent motion (see column 2, lines 54-57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a robot stage as in Barrey for the X-Y table of Ishida in order to apply coatings such as the sealant of Ishida and Chikahisa to a surface that lies in 2 or more dimensional planes.

Chikahisa (either US patent or the English translation of WO99/49987) discloses a similar syringe and nozzle applying device wherein a member rotating device (item 230) is used to rotate the nozzles for application. Chikahisa discloses that this rotation enables a shift to a position so as not to come in contact with the wiring (i.e., dispensing) pattern (see column 11, lines 40-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a rotary mounting in order to achieve better control over nozzle positioning shifts during dispensing.

As to claim 2, Both Ishida and Chikahisa disclose that the dispenser comprises: a syringe (Ishida, item 2 and Chikahisa, item 2153) for storing said material, and joined in flow communication with said pen tip; and means for pumping (Ishida, described in column 5, lines 56-60, and Chikahisa, item 2154) said syringe to dispense material through said pen tip. The applicant's specification does not provide a specific example of a means for pumping other than it needs to be computer controller actuated, which is disclosed in both Ishida and Chikahisa.

As to claim 3, Ishida discloses that the controller includes a predetermined path for the pen tip thereacross (see column 3, lines 18-33) and a three dimensional geometry of the workpiece (i.e., measurement data). Similarly, Barrey as incorporated discloses a controller for working with 3-dimensional geometries (see column 4, lines 32-60).

As to claim 11, Ishida discloses a robotic pen (Figure 1) comprising: a computer numerically controlled machine (items 14, 16, 17 and 18) including a stage (items 5, 6 and 8) for mounting a workpiece for rotation and orthogonal translation (see column 5, for example), and an elevator(items 4a and 10) for translation from said stage; a pen tip (item 1) mounted to said elevator, and a dispenser (syring 2) joined in flow communication with said pen tip for ejecting a stream of material atop said workpiece.

Ishida does not disclose that the pen is rotatably mounted to the elevator, or that the stage permits translation generally in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to the plane.

Barrey discloses that it is known to uses a stage or end effector for permitting translation generally in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to the plane. Barrey discloses that a multi-axis robot structure allows for the application of sealant to a surface that lies in 2 or more dimensional planes with a smooth and consisten motion (see column 2, lines 54-57). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a robot stages as in Barrey for

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the X-Y table of Ishida in order to apply coatings such as the sealant of Ishida and Chikahisa to a surface that lies in 2 or more dimensional planes.

Chikahisa discloses a similar syringe and nozzle applying device wherein a member rotating device (item 230) is used to rotate the nozzles for application.

Chikahisa discloses that this rotation enable a shift to a position so as not to come in contact with the wiring (i.e., dispensing) pattern (see column 11, lines 40-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a rotary mounting in order to achieve better control over nozzle positioning shifts during dispensing.

Claim 24 is rejected on similar grounds as claims 1 and 11 above.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4-6, 12, 17-23 and 25-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 11/23/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. The robot of Barrey is disclosed as having 6-axies of motion (abstract, multiple locations in the specification), not the 3 axes applicant argues in the remarks filed. The

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term six axis robot is well understood in the art as a robot capable of being moved any point and angle and inherently is capable of being moved such that it permits translation in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to said plane.

6. Examples of such robots manufactured by the same assignee as the Barrey patent are in US Patents 6,039,375; 5,890,656; 5,833,147; 5,777,267; Barrey was cited to show that such unlimited positional control for the substrate, relative to a dispenser, is known.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

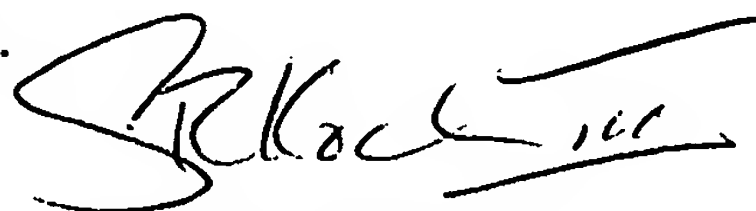
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Koch III whose telephone number is (571)

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272-1230 (TDD only). If the applicant cannot make a direct TDD-to-TDD call, the applicant can communicate by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-866-377-8642 and giving the operator the above TDD number. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



George R. Koch III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1734

GRK
2/4/2006